

MEMORANDUM

July 8, 2008

To: Legislative Task Force on Higher Education and Applied Technology Governance

From: Jed Pitcher, Chair, Utah State Board of Regents
Don Ipson, Chair, Utah College of Applied Technology Board of Trustees

Copy: State Board of Regents
UCAT Board of Trustees
USHE Presidents

Subject: REPORT ON JOINT MEETING

Representatives of the State Board of Regents and the Utah College of Applied Technology Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, July 2, to see if areas of common ground could be found to formulate a recommendation to the Legislative Task Force. Representing the Board of Regents were Regents Jed Pitcher and Meghan Holbrook, Interim Commissioner Dave Buhler, and Salt Lake Community College Vice President Mason Bishop. Representing the Utah College of Applied Technology were Trustees Don Ipson and Tom Bingham, and Campus Presidents Richard Maughan of the BATC and Mike Bouwhuis of the DATC.

We met in a concerted effort to find common ground with UCAT and the rest of Higher Education for the overall efficiency of the Utah system, and with a recognition that the quality of choices and support for Utah students were our overriding objectives. The meeting was cordial and constructive, and while agreement was found on one important issue, on another important issue there was not agreement.

Everyone agreed that there should be a new effort to provide statewide articulation for UCAT students, with a staff person added to the Commissioner's office to facilitate articulation. While details are yet to be formulated, in concept what this would mean is existing articulation agreements between UCAT campuses and other USHE institutions would remain in place. To build upon what currently exists, there would an initiative to create other articulation agreements between UCAT campuses and other USHE institutions, regardless of where they are located in the state.

Currently, articulation is done on a campus-to-institution basis, within their geographical region. Under this plan, where articulation is appropriate, such as cosmetology, students at Ogden-Weber Applied Technology College could articulate with another USHE

institution, such as Salt Lake Community College or the College of Eastern Utah, even though they are not physically located within the same region.

The articulation coordinator would also work with UCAT and other USHE institutions to map out new articulation opportunities for programs that lend themselves to pathways to college credit. In some cases, standardized tests currently available may be used to allow students to receive recognition for college credit from a credit-granting institution. For this to take place, it is agreed that additional resources are needed to fund a new position in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. While statewide articulation will work regardless of governance structure, not surprisingly, Regents feel it would work best if UCAT is part of the Utah System of Higher Education. However, UCAT disagrees that governance structure should make a difference to statewide articulation. The second issue discussed was UCAT's desire to have its own governing board separate and apart from either the Utah System of Higher Education or the State Board of Education. Although the issue was discussed, and representatives of the Board of Regents expressed a willingness to consider supporting a change in governance under certain circumstances, there was no agreement as to whether or how this should be done. Given this, the Task Force should expect differing recommendations on this subject at its next meeting.

We appreciate the time and attention task force members are giving to these important issues, and pledge our continued cooperation in finding the best and most workable solutions for students and people of Utah.